

**FILED ELECTRONICALLY**

September 14 2005

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Esq.  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support of FCC Region 8 (Tri-State) in their Petition for Reconsideration under FCC  
Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch,

The National Association of Regional Planning Committees (NARPC) hereby submits comments supporting the Petition for Reconsideration filed by FCC Region 8 on January 20, 2005, regarding the interim interference protection afforded NPSPAC licensees during the 800 MHz re-banding period.

**NARPC supports FCC Region 8 conclusions that interference protection to public safety NPSPAC users throughout re-banding should not be reduced and the NPSPAC band should be afforded the same protection during the re-banding process as it will be afforded in a post re-banding environment.**

The NARPC supports the FCC Region 8 conclusion that interference protection to existing NPSPAC users should be consistent throughout the re-banding process and feels it best serves the interest of the public safety community. The evidence provided by Region 8 in its filing to the Commission clearly shows the potentially negative impact to public safety users and their systems that will be created with the reduction of interference protection to users operating with signal strengths below -85/-88 dBm throughout the re-banding process. While the -101/-104 dBm values were designed to protect public safety in a post reconfiguration non-interleaved spectrum environment, the levels are necessary to achieve a minimum signal level in a Public Safety Class A Receiver. It should be noted that the NARPC agrees with the Commission that the reduction of interference protection during the re-banding period is appropriate for the interleaved public safety channels between 854-860 MHz, as they will be

subject to a spectrum environment being radically being altered for the duration of this process. In addition, the NPSPAC channels between 866-869 MHz currently used by public safety are not “interleaved” with non-public safety cellular type systems and face diverse interference challenges resulting from scenarios that include participants not party to the Report and Order. The National Association of Regional Planning Committees urges the Commission to reconsider its decision to include the public safety NPSPAC allocation when reducing the interference protection of 800 MHz public safety users throughout the re-banding process.

**The National Association of Regional Planning Committees urges the Commission to provide consistent protection to NPSPAC National Mutual Aid channels both during and after the 800 MHz re-banding process.**

The current public safety NPSPAC band, located between 866-869 MHz, contains five (5) national recognized mutual aid channel pairs established by the Commission within the NPSPAC process, Docket 87-112. These five channels have become, under the Commissions leadership foresight and vision, a national “platform” of interoperability, implemented and utilized in communities nationwide. Further, the Commissions allocation of these National Mutual Aid channels provided, for the first time, a multi-discipline nationwide interoperable allocation that was accompanied with recommended *standardized* technical and operational requirements to promote and facilitate interoperability. The continued protection of the public safety 866-869 MHz allocation is critical to all NPSPAC users, but especially critical to users of these national mutual aid channels since any reduction of protection can reduce this valuable user resource in a mission critical scenario. The costs, referred to in opposition filings by Nextel and CTIA that may occur as a result of increasing the interference protection for the 866-869 MHz band in their opposition to the Region 8 Petition for Reconsideration, are considerably different than the costs that may be experienced by public safety that could be directly attributable to this reduction in interference protection to mission critical public safety use. During the re-banding process, a perceived inconvenience by the wireless community should not be considered on parallel with potential mission critical costs to public safety users.

The 800 MHz NPSPAC Mutual Aid Channels are a recognized interoperable platform that the public safety user community has identified as consistently available across the nation. The National Association of Regional Planning Committees strongly opposes any action that may deteriorate the protection of this national interoperable resource, even temporarily. We recommend the Commission exclude the public safety NPSPAC channels from 866-869 MHz from any reduction in interference protection it is introducing to the interleaved channels from 854-860 MHz during 800 MHz re-banding under Docket 02-55.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen T. Devine, Chairperson  
National Association of Regional Planning Committees (NARPC)